

Potrero Hill and SOMA: A Tale of Two Commutes

By Kerry Fleisher

The tech buzzword these days is "Web 2.0," and with the buzz comes the promise of a second dotcom euphoria, prompting a mini hiring binge in Silicon Valley. Unlike the first dotcom sweet-talk of rooftop parties and unlimited champagne, companies such as Google, Broadcom, and Symantec are offering a new incentive to prospective employees who live, or want to live, in San Francisco: the convenience of Caltrain's baby bullet express service. Commuters to the peninsula aren't satisfied with the Marina District glitz anymore. It's all about freeway and rail access, making Potrero Hill and South-of-Market (SoMa) the current crib of choice.

The Hill, with its down-home flavor, and corporate SoMa have very different draw factors for Silicon Valley commuters, but they share the advantage of the conveniently close Caltrain. For those who work south of San Francisco, neighborhoods north of Market Street or west of the Mission can't compete with the Hill and SoMa's proximity to this transportation node. The Caltrain's express service, which celebrated its third year anniversary last month, stops just five times between the northern edge of Potrero - or the southern tip of SoMa - and San



Photo by Debbie Findling

You never know what you might come across strolling through Potrero on a sunny weekend. One Saturday in July the "Laf a Lots Frisco" car club showed off their vintage vehicles next to Three Parkside on Wisconsin Street, including a 1941 fire engine.

Potrero Hill and Dogpatch residents have long cherished their pedestrian-friendly streets, lined with Victorian cottages and Edwardian flats. And these avenues are once again attracting young technology consultants. "During the original dotcom boom we had techies lining up for our Potrero Hill rental unit; some of them already had an

Abused Landscape

apartment in the northern part of the City, and wanted our place as a second home with quick freeway access. Last year when we rented our

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Trashing Toxic Cosmetics Two Cops Patrol an

By Lorraine Sanders

Ask any woman about her daily beauty rituals and she'll be able to tell you exactly what products she uses, in what order and for what purpose. Most of us begin and end our day with personal care products, like shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste and soap. But those are just the basics. Add make-up, nail polish, hair styling aids, moisturizer, sun protection and specialized skincare products, and the number of products women regularly rely on rises significantly: women and girls in the United States use an average of 12 personal care products every day, according to a 2004 survey conducted by the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics, a coalition of health and environmental groups.

With so many personal care products available looking good has never been easier. But there's a downside to all the poofs and perms: some cosmetics may pose public health and environmental risks. Of the roughly 10,500 known ingredients used in personal care products - from eye cream to body lotion - only 11 percent have been evaluated for their health impacts, according to Skin Deep, an online database of 14,000 personal care products published by nonprofit Environmental Working Group (EWG). What's more, EWG has found known or probable carcinogens, ranging from formaldehyde to lead acetate, in one out of every 100 personal care products on the market.

Long-term exposure to toxic

Officers George Herman Leudtke and Cullen Cahill, who are assigned to the Bayview District's Housing Task Force unit, patrol the public housing located in Bayview-Hunters Point and Potrero four days a week, 10hours a day. The housing, typically

By Kerry Fleisher

War II to shelter what at the time was thought to be a temporary workforce. Now, some fear that the housing developments are too often associated with street gangs: Oak Mob from Oakdale; West Mob out of the Westpoint Housing Complex. The gang members - many of whom

barracks-style units, was mostly

built during or just after World

are the children or grandchildren of workers who were drawn to the area by mid-last century job opportunities - now engage in a different kind of

Just a mile south of Potrero Hill's sandwich shops and cafes, kids as young as six can identify by name AK-47s and Tek-9 handguns. In the Bayview public housing zone bordered by India Basin Industrial Park to the north, Third Street to the west, and Hunters Point Shipyard to the east, crack dealers transact business with teenage "spotters" manning the doors. Displaced homeless drug addicts skulk north to break into cars, a ready store of

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Publisher's View Yours, Mine and Ours

By Steven J. Moss

Nothing in America is more powerful than property rights. If I own some thing, and don't want to give it up, neither love nor money can pry it away from me. We're taught the supremacy of ownership at an early age – witness any toddler, toy in hand, screaming "mine" at an intrusive sibling or friend. In our society "mine" is way more powerful than "ours."

Of course "ours" also comes into play. After the toddler throws his toy at his friend's head it's likely be confiscated, at least for a time. Collectively we can constrain what even grown-ups can do with their property. It might be your car, but you still have to obey our traffic laws.

The border between mine and ours, as policed by government, constantly shifts, with the dominance of mine giving way to the power of ours, or vice-versa. Not so long ago I could sit in a restaurant and blow my cigarette smoke into your face; now I could be arrested for doing so. In the recent past we didn't let people have gay sex or use marijuana to ease their cancer; now, at least in San Francisco, people make it a point of pride to engage in either of these activities.

Societal tussles over mine and ours can be most heated when it comes to how land should be used. That's in part because conflicts over land use often pit "mine" against "mine:" when a property owner develops their land they're also changing my neighborhood, for better or worse. Land use policies are also typically regulated at the local level, increasing the hot-house atmosphere

of the debate. Taking about health care reform in the hallowed, and faraway, halls of congress is one thing; trying to maintain perspective when a bunch of neighbors are screaming at one another over a specific piece of property is quite another.

In Southeast San Francisco we're in the middle of a scrum of land use debates. The community faces proposals to build two different helipads; pressure to redevelop large swaths of light industrial lands into high-density housing; and the possible construction of two significant power generation or transmission facilities, to name just a few impending land use alterations. This onslaught of change can easily bring out the toddler in all of us: it's my land, I can do what I want with it; it's my neighborhood - stop trying to ruin it. And it's sometimes hard to distinguish "mine" from "ours." Building a noisy, but profitable, helipad to deliver desperately sick people from far away could be seen as mine, ours, or the opposite.

While land use tussles can turn us into toddlers, it's better that we act like adults. The toy the toddler grasps onto with all his might will usually be forgotten within days, if not minutes. The things we choose to construct in our neighborhood will last considerably longer; in most cases past our lifetimes. In the end we're all really renters: nothing is really "mine." The decisions we make about whether to build a power plant or a new housing complex belongs to all of us, and to the future, to an "ours" we can help create but can never really own.



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Letters to the Editor

More Helipad

I read with interest the June article about San Francisco General Hospital's proposed helipad proposal. While I'm sympathetic to residents' concerns about noise, I hope to provide a different perspective.

When you really need it, a medical evacuation helicopter and a place to land it is a good thing. On July 1, 1991, I got a helicopter ride that landed at Dominican Hospital in Santa Cruz. I was torn up from a shark attack, and had lost almost 40 percent of my blood. My blood pressure was 50/30, and I needed three units of blood and 250 to 400 stitches after I got to the hospital.

If you or your family member were badly hurt in a car wreck, where would you rather be? Stuck in traffic as your life ticks away, or winging at 140 mph towards a waiting helipad, as the medic confers by radio with the doctors? When the big earthquake hits, it's pretty likely that local medical facilities will be overwhelmed. The best hope for many people is going to be flying them in or out to a less crowded hospital, one that's still standing,

or one that you can get to without weaving around downed freeway overpasses or collapsed bridges.

I never got to thank the Army medic or pilot on my flight. I think it's pretty likely that had I not gotten that ride, I would have died. The doctors later told me that it was a matter of 10 minutes between life and death for me because of all the blood loss.

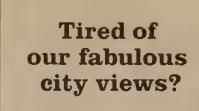
Helicopters can be noisy, and it would be irritating to have one fly over your house in the middle of the night at an unpredictable time. But think about how important the flight is for the person in it. My vote would be to build the helipad.

Former Potrero Hill resident

Curbside Praise

I commend your paper for publishing "The Curbside Ethicist." This public service column presents a way of thinking through possible solutions, which is especially important given current conflicts in our society.

Ray Lew



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The Curbside Ethicist

Q) While taking a smoke break in the backyard I overheard someone on the upstairs apartment's deck - a teenager - making a drug deal over the telephone. I knew my upstairs neighbors were out, with a babysitter taking care of their five-year-old daughter. Obviously I wasn't supposed to have heard what was intended as a private conversation. What should I do?

A) Here, we have a tale of two minors, one more minor than the other. You must talk to the parents of the five-year-old right away and tell them what you overheard. They have a right to know about the kinds of activities that the sitter was engaging in while on their clock. It's likely that the sitter wasn't focusing his or her attention on the child. As for the other minor, the sitter, recommend to your neighbors that they speak to the teenager's parents about possible drug use.

Q) I'm a self-employed independent consultant. While driving to Sacramento to attend a work meeting a truck ahead of me popped up a small stone which flew into my windshield, producing a crack. It's going to cost me about \$300 to replace the glass. I can deduct the cost from my taxes, but that would only partially reimburse me for this out-of-pocket, work-related expenditure. Would it be ethical for me to charge my client for a few extra hours to cover this cost?

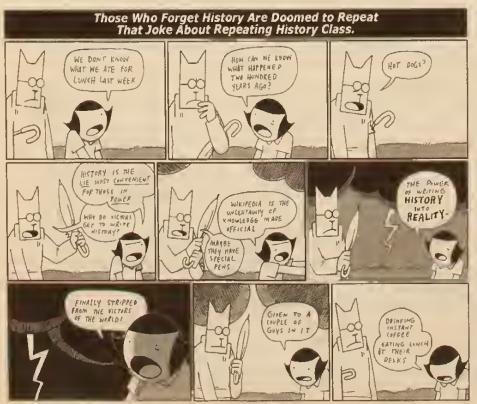
A) No, it wouldn't. Your contract with your client cannot double for hazard insurance while on the job. Your client pays you for a specific service, if you bill for extra hours that you don't work, you're essentially embezzling. Let's examine this problem from another angle: what would you think if your plumber billed you for a few extra hours to cover the cost of a flat tire that he got on the way to your home? The expense of repairing damage caused by roadside hazards and other emergencies should be factored into

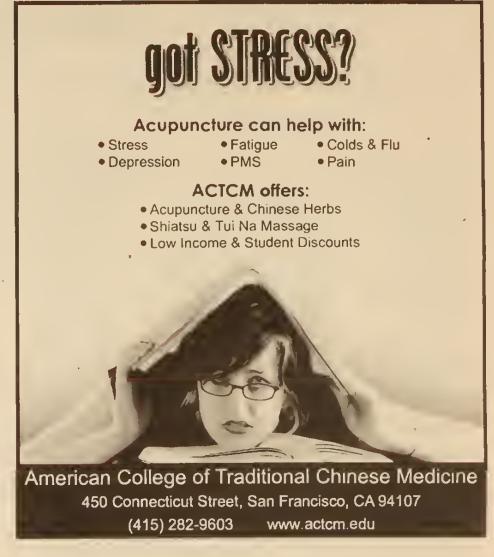
your budget for running a business.

Q) I live in a two-floor building in the upstairs unit. Our downstairs neighbors are nice enough, though we don't socialize. Various package services occasionally try to deliver packages when I'm not home; on those occasions they leave a notice on my door. I then fetch the package at the appropriate place, which I prefer as the items are sometimes valuable. A few weeks ago, the delivery person left the notice on the wrong (downstairs) door, though the label clearly had my name and address on it. My downstairs neighbor waited a week before giving me the notice, at which time the package had been returned to the sender. The company from which I bought the item wants me to pay the shipping costs again. Should I ask the neighbors to pay

A) Most of us at one time or another have signed for a package for a neighbor or had a neighbor receive one for us, a small kindness that usually works out well for all involved. As upset as you are with your neighbor for holding on to your notice for so long, the mistake was made by the delivery person, not your neighbor. Since the notice was delivered to the wrong door, you have a valid reason to ask the delivery company to reimburse you for the (re)shipping costs. On the plus side, this incident gives you an excuse to get to know your neighbor a little better and negotiate expectations for those unwritten neighborly obligations.

The Curbside Ethicist is written by a Potrero Hill resident who specializes insolving ethical dilemmas facing children and adults. Readers are encouraged to seek guidance from their own religious or philosophical counselors to solve knotty problems, and are invited to send the View their questions, comments, and disagreements about this column: editor@potreroview.net.











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Short Cuts

Haute Hill

The Hill's haute quotient is growing even higher with the addition of Robin Brouillette's new fashion outlet on 18th Street, next door to community-in-a-cup Farley's Café. Brouillette, who owned the Stanley Boutique in New York's Lower East Side, and who 7x7 San Francisco magazine named one of the hottest people in the Bay Area, specializes in creating feminine articles made of silk with an international flair. Potrero Hill's gentler gender will now be able to wear the most fashionable of silks while dining on burgers and fries at nearby Ganim's Market...speaking of fancy-schmancy, Whole Foods-Potrero opens on September 12.

Potrero Po-Po

Last month, the Potrero Boosters sponsored a community coffee clache with Bayview Station Police Captain Albert Pardini, a 24-year veteran of the force. While many Hill old-timers lapped up the captain's laid-back approach, others were mystified by his appeal. Pardini declined to replicate the previous captain's – Rick Bruce – daily precinct update, because that'd be too much work. Pardini did regale the assembled masses with various amusing anecdotes, describing criminals as "his problem children" and telling (and retelling) a

story about a sting operation in which a plainclothes cop would wander around Bayview and get mugged ("by 5 p.m. he'd already been mugged twice - ha ha!"). When asked about gang activity on the Hill, the good captain said he didn't think it was much of a problem anymore because "they've either all moved away or killed each other." Between the lines the message seemed to be: it could be worse; we could be living in Bayview, or Bagdad, for that matter....July brought in a rash of car break-ins and thefts on the Hill's northern slope, mostly of older vehicles, as well as home burglaries, including a particularly brazen robbery on 20th and Vermont streets in which the thief, who was later nabbed by the police, entered from the back yard after hopping several fences. All that criminal determination should be put to better use.

\$500 Million for Five Megawatts

The skirmishes continued over whether the Board of Supervisors should approve the half-billion dollar Trans Bay Cable, this time at the Board's Land Use Committee, which was ably chaired by District 10 Supervisor Sophie Maxwell. Pretty much everyone agreed that the "reliability gap" – the amount of electricity the City would be short in

the event of a catastrophic collapse of the grid – is a mere five megawatts in 2011; one-tenth of one percent of the City's energy needs, according to the San Francisco Public Utility Commission. Dogpatch-based San Francisco Community Power testified that it achieved five megawatts of energy-savings by replacing old refrigerators at such places as Goat Hill Pizza and Hazel's Kitchen and employed dozens of Bayview-Hunters Point and Potrero residents to boot - and is working to achieve another 10 megawatts of "peakshaving" - shifting the time of energy consumption to lower use hours - by handing out free timers and new electric meters to businesses like REI, Roadway Express, and Whole Foods. As SF Power's Associate Director Paul Liotsakis put it, "Whatever happened to taking care of our own problems?" Meanwhile, eight years has passed and Anne Eng, the San Francisco Department of the -Environment's environmental justice grants manager, is still holding onto \$2 million of the \$13 million+ that the California Legislature ordered Pacific Gas and Electric Company to pay the Bayview-Hunters Point and Potrero communities in mitigation for the sale of the Potrero Power Plant to Mirant Corporation. Two million dollars would buy a lot of energy efficiency...

Development Tsunami

The Planning Department released its long-awaited Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Eastern Neighborhoods, which looks at three future land use scenarios, one that's too hot, one that's too cold, and one that's juuust right, or something like that. The bottom line is that Rip

Van Potrero, waking-up 20-years from now, will almost certainly be surrounded by a community ringed by denser housing units, greater amounts of retail, patches of light industry, and lots of traffic. The greatest changes will occur in the Central Waterfront, Dogpatch, eastern South-of-Market, and Showplace Square neighborhoods. If you think the future is worth fighting for, now might be the time to jump into the fray. Green space, anyone?

Political Soup

With the next District 10 supervisor election a mere three years away, and current Supervisor Sophie Maxwell termed-out, names are already being floated like so many helium-filled balloons to see which ones pop quickly, and which ones keep rising. In addition to always-readyto run Marie Harrison, Espanola Jackson, and Linda Richardson - all from neighborhoods south of Potrero Hill - Betty Mcgee, who runs the Bayview-Hunters Point Health and Environmental Resource Center, and Bayview activist Alex Lantsberg have been identified as possible candidates. No one from Dogpatch or Potrero Hill has yet been fingered, though long ago candidate and Goat Hill Pizza slinger Philip De Andrade has some kind of gleam in his eye, and Potrero Booster Tony Kelly already works hard enough for the community to be its supervisor. Certainly District 10 deserves the very best candidate; if they haven't been named here let the View know who you think should, no must, run.

Got some gossip? We're all ears, or eyes, as the case may be: editor@ potreroview.net.

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New Kids on the Block and Other Family News

By Melissa Glorieux

Happy birthday to the Thacher family! The annual Thacher Summer Birthday Bash will be held on August 11 at Julius Kahn Playground. Gavin turned three on July 13, Audrey turns two on August 1, and Cal turns five on September 22!

Happy birthday to Julianna Rockwood! Julianna turns five on August 8. She'll celebrate by devouring chocolate cupcakes with pink frosting and playing in the park with friends.

Happy August 12 anniversary from Steven to Debbie, who promises not to forget ever again!

On August 16, Max Stuebe will have given his family four wonderful, whacky and wildly energetic years. Happy birthday, Big Max!

Victoria Offenhartz wishes her husband John a happy anniversary. ("Love you, baby!") August 28 will mark three eventful years: daughter Claire was born on January 9, 2006 and a baby brother will arrive shortly after Claire's second birthday in January 2008.

Isla Freeburg Ferguson turns four on August 31. Her parents Natalie and Brian are truly grateful for the amazing people in Potrero Hill who are involved in her life, and who have helped encourage her funny, confident, insightful wee spirit.

Potrero Parents Fight For Preschool At **Daniel Webster**

By Kerry Fleisher

The Potrero Residents Education Fund (PREFund) is progressing with its efforts to open a preschool at Daniel Webster Elementary, located at 465 Missouri Street. PREFund is working with the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) to identify a funding source for the proposed bilingual preschool, and hopes to begin raising monies from private donors this Fall.

"Our goal is to improve public education on both sides of Hill," said Dena Fischer, å Potrero Hill Parents Association (PHPA) member and co-founder of PREFund. "Unfortunately, a lot of parents at Daniel Webster don't have the time or means to get involved." Fischer's kids currently attend preschool in Mission Bay; she'd like them to be closer to home, and, like many Potrero Hill parents, when the time comes would prefer that her children attend a neighborhood school.

PHPA made headlines in 2006 when it fended-off a SFUSD proposal to close Daniel Webster and transfer its students to nearby Starr King Elemenatary School. The school's supporters gathered 600 signatures, marched to the Board of Education, and demanded that Daniel Webster, whose student body is 98 percent non-European-American and predominantly from low-income families, be removed from the closure list. The effort paid-off; the Board of Education voted unanimously against shutting the school down.

While Webster remains open it's far from healthy. Only 24 families selected it as a first-choice school for their entering kindergartener for the 2007/8 school year, compared to 70 first choice selections for Starr King, and 311 for Buena Vista. In response to the school's low enrollment and sub-par test scores, PHPA has recruited community members without children at the school to help with after-school art programs and donate needed equipment, and convinced neighborhood businesses, such as Ford Real Estate and Potrero Chiropractors, to sponsor educational activities.

PREFund acquired initial funding from the San Francisco Foundation, which also provides administrative support. PREFund has teamed-up with the Mission Neighborhood Center, a nonprofit that serves

predominately low-income Hispanic families in the Mission, Excelsior, Bayview-Hunters Point, and Mission Bay. Together the two groups are trying to raise the funds necessary to finance a full-immersion preschool at Daniel Webster.

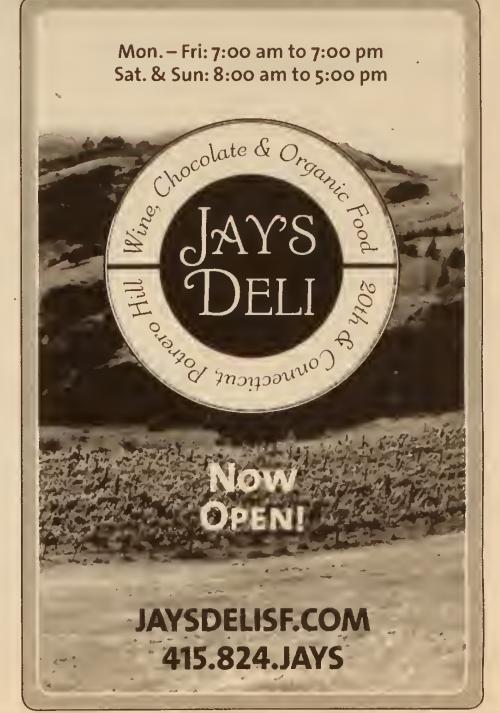
The proposed preschool will attempt to replicate an academic model that has successful turned around other low-performing schools with poor enrollment. The Friends of Potrero Preschool's effective implementation of a bilingual language immersion program helped revitalize Starr King, a school that had similarly been suffering from low academic performance and anemic enrollment. Bilingual preschools can become natural feeders to the elementary school on which they're located, increasing enrollment and attracting a more economically diverse student body.

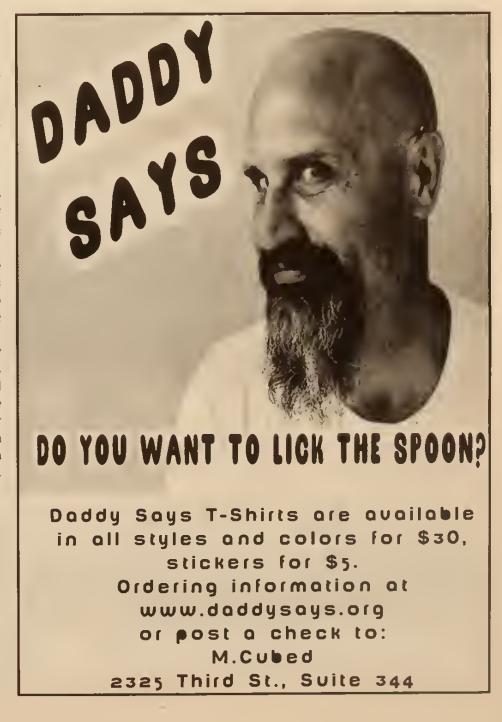
While Friends of Potrero Preschool doesn't provide all day services, PREFund hopes to offer daylong and summer care at the Daniel Webster site, providing a place for kids to be supervised if their parents work during the day.

Preschools are only eligible for language immersion programs if they host a minimum number of children who speak the second language as their native tongue. Daniel Webster would seem to meet this requirement, as the school already has an Englishas-a-second-language program in place. PREFund is hoping to be able to offer 25 percent scholarships to needy families.

PHPA hopes to keep as many Potrero Hill families as possible from sending their children to schools outside the neighborhood. PREFund's mission statement states that the preschool will "serve all residents of Potrero Hill and keep middle class families in San Francisco. Potrero Hill parents represent the precise group of San Francisco families which are often cited as the group leaving the City and the public

PREFund will hold a community meeting in September to present their plans to the community and interested families. If you'd like to donate to Daniel Webster or Starr King, go to potrerochiros.com and click on "Fundraiser"; to join PREFund's mailing list visit www. prefund.org.







State School Lunch Law Finally Catches Up with San Francisco

By Julie Mitchell

A few months ago the California Legislature imposed nutrition standards for food and beverages sold at elementary, middle, and high school campuses that the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) adopted four years ago. San Francisco's schools participate in the National School Lunch Program, a federally-assisted meal program that offers free or reduced-priced lunches to low-income students. The District's healthy-food policy, which was instituted by a Board of Education resolution that removed junk food and soda from the City's schools, helps ensure that nutritionally balanced, low- or no-cost lunches are offered to students.

Mary Jue has a daughter who attends first grade at Starr King Elementary, and works one day a week as the school nurse. "I have been impressed with the District's approach to serving healthy food in the schools," she said. "They solicited input from not only parents but students as well and involved them in developing a healthy eating plan. It's still a challenge to get the kids to understand that what they're eating at school is the kind of thing they should be eating all the time." Jue says her daughter chooses to eat the school lunch about half the time, with Jue packing her a lunchbox on other days.

SFUSD's healthy-food policy, which was developed by a committee of parents, students, health professionals, and district staff, was created in response to soaring rates of childhood obesity, asthma, heart disease, high blood pressure, and Type 2 diabetes. Under the policy schools are prohibited from

selling junk food-defined as food that's high in calories but low in nutritional value—in their cafeterias or vending machines. Food and beverages sold in San Francisco schools must meet specific standards for fat and sugar content, as well as for eight essential nutrients: protein, iron, calcium, vitamin A, vitamin C, thiamin, niacin, and riboflavin, and there are limits on portion size. As a result, cookies, chips, and other junk food can't be found in City schools unless students bring them in, a practice that's discouraged by school administrators and teachers.

San Francisco school cafeterias are managed by the District's Student Nutrition Services, and the meals served in elementary schools and most middle and high schools are prepared and delivered by Preferred Meal Systems (PMS), a private company. PMS provides frozen entrees which are supplemented with fresh breads, local fresh produce, and milk. Some middle and high schools, including Aptos, Denman, and Roosevelt middle schools and Burton, Lincoln, and Washington high schools, prepare their cafeteria meals on-site using US Department of Agriculture-approved recipes.

Recent SFUSD lunch menus included grilled chicken patties, spaghetti with meat sauce, and beef tacos, along with vegetarian offerings, such as grilled cheese, bean and cheese burritos, and macaroni and cheese with green beans. Side dishes consisted of baby carrots with ranch dressing, fresh pears, apples, or oranges; dessert might be honey graham crackers or corn muffins; though on most days dessert isn't offered.

"The state SB 12 [School Junk

Food Ban]...won't even affect our district," said SFUSD's assistant director of Student Nutrition Services Loretta Lee. "Many national programs are using our district policy as an example." SB 12, which regulates non-cafeteria food sold anywhere on school campuses – including through vending machines, onsite stores, or fundraisers – imposes limits on fat and sugar content and portion sizes. San Francisco previously adopted similar standards as part of its healthy-food policy.

While the City's kindergarten through 12th-grade schools appear to have successfully banished junk food from the classroom, pre-kindergarteners at Child Development Centers may still have access to such sweet treats as gummy bears, cookies, and pastries. Informal accounts from parents and others indicate that some Center administrators are poorly educated about San Francisco's healthy-food policy, and allow parents and teachers to bring in snacks that are supposed to be banned.

Christopher Rosenberg, Starr King Elementary School's principal, is a staunch advocate of the healthy-food policy; he's also instituting a wellness care system that includes an on-site nutritionist and a full-time wellness coordinator. Rosenberg has asked the District to add a salad/fresh fruit bar to the cafeteria, so that students have the daily option of fresh vegetables and fruit.

"If we can't get the salad bar from 'the district," Rosenberg said, "then we will turn to the San Francisco Food Bank that brings free groceries to needy families here by way of a grant to see if they can provide us with more fruit and veggies."

Rosenberg may be in luck. According to Lee, SFUSD has been piloting a salad bar program in three San Francisco schools— Miraloma Elementary, Marina Middle and Balboa High School. "The students have the option," she said, "of adding salad to their regular lunch, or choosing just to buy salad." Salad bars may soon become part of every school cafeteria.

Gene Barresi, Alvarado Elementary School's former principal, and Moraima Machado, Daniel Webster's principal, educates parents on making healthy food choices when they bring their lunches from home. According to Machado, "We have sent letters to the parents reminding them not to send junk food to school with the kids."

All three school administrators agree that students need more hands-on help in school cafeterias, particularly during the early grades. "You wouldn't believe how hard it is for a kindergartener to open a little carton of milk," Starr King's Rosenbergsaid. He staffs his cafeteria with one credentialed teacher and two teacher's aides, as does Machado; Rosenberg and Machado visit their lunch rooms daily. Barresi relies both on teachers and parent volunteers to help out. "The kids definitely need supervision at lunchtime," he said.



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Off to War

By David Matsuda

I said goodbye to my family and friends, hopped into my VW Bug, and headed to military training camp in Kansas. I made the trip by car so I'd have time to reflect on what was in my rearview mirror. I passed through Las Vegas and Zion National Park, drove on Historic Route 66, and visited Chaco Canyon and Santa Fe.

As I left California on my journey to the Midwest, and eventually the Middle East, my fond reflections on my 22-year marriage with my wife, Kristi, and my two adolescent daughters, Katie and Kimi, gave way to nagging questions about the future. Will I return from the war? Will I ever again gaze in wonder at the fingers of fog clawing their way over Twin Peaks?

I crossed through the Great Basin desert into the Great Plan's fertile fields, and thought about family members who'd served, with distinction, in the military. Five of my uncles fought with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team during World War II. I remembered sitting raptly at family reunions, listening to these quiet, deeply emotional men talk about service before self; the camaraderie of those who together overcome fear through bravery; and the horrors of war.

Do I have what it takes to honor their sacrifice? True, I did my anthropological fieldwork in Guatemala during an insurgency, but I was a risk-taker then, filled with youth's confidence and belief in immortality. I'm none of those things

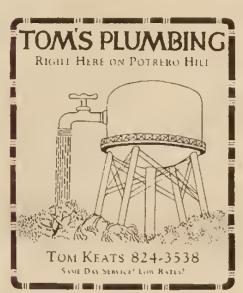


now. How will I react to military and civilian casualties, and the constant threat of road-side bombings?

After a week on the road I arrived at the National Military Training Center at Fort Leavenworth, anxious to start training. Instead, I was forced to wait. My security clearance hadn't been processed; I wasn't allowed to meet my colleagues or attend any classes. I stood outside under an awning in the pouring rain, waiting for word of my fate. Several soldiers wandered up to use a nearby telephone to call a department and offer their services. I discovered that ranking reservists not attached to a desk, truck or tank are free agents, able to apply to work for any number of jobs, from diplomatic liaison to area specialist or cultural affairs.

Finally, a decision. I could proceed without clearance to join my colleagues. And my "hurry-up and wait" had been turned into "wait and hurry-up." My Middle East deployment had been moved-up by two months. I was behind in my training even before I started.

David Matsuda is an anthropologist and long-time Potrero Hill resident. He's currently in Kansas training for civilian deployment in Iraq. He'll be participating in the "Human Terrain Project," which relies on social scientists, principally anthropologists, to help military commanders make culturallyinformed conflict resolution





Bedtime Story for my Daughters

By David Matsuda

One upon a, two upon a, three upon a time, there was a daddy, mommy, and two

baby bears. The daddy bear had to go away and hibernate. While the daddy bear was asleep he dreamed about the mommy and two baby bears. They were happy dreams because he knew that the mommy and babies loved each other and would take care of each other. In his dreams he knew the babies were growing-up strong, and wise, and fast; he saw his babies playing with

old friends and new, going to schools that they loved.

He had sad dreams too; that his babies would grow-up without him. On the worst nights he dreamed that his family didn't even recognize him when he woke-up. On those nights he tossed and turned, calling out in his sleep to the mommy and the babies not to forget him, to hold him tight when he finally woke-up.

The daddy bear kept sleeping. His bad dreams turned back into good ones, and he smiled.



Co-written by Potrero Hill mom and educator Debbie Findling, Teaching the Holocaust has been called a must-have for anyone interested in the topic, or responsible for educating teenagers. about the lively Jewish Community that existed prior to World War II, its subsequent destruction and renewal in Israel and the United States. The book can be purchased online at www. torahaura:com





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AVAILABLE FOR PRIVATE PARTIES

Restaurants That Deliver

By Debbie Findling

Just about every week I find myself staring hypnotically into my empty refrigerator, wondering why there aren't more restaurant delivery options on Potrero Hill. On one recent night, frustrated once again that I hadn't thought to pick-up dinner on my way home from work, and crabby from my quickly declining blood sugar level, I posed a question to the seemingly always online and infinitely knowledgeable posse of moms and dads on the Potrero Hill Parents' Association listserve: "I'm the occasional food writer for the View and full-time working mom," I wrote. "If you're like me, you find yourself desperately (more often than you'd like to admit) trying to figure out what to make for dinner. Why is it that New Yorkers can get any delicacy delivered anytime day or night, and we San Franciscans can barely find a pizza joint that'll delivėr?"

Apparently a lot of Hill residents felt my pain. Liesl Ludwig, husband Christopher, and their dog, Hank, moved to San Francisco from New York nearly eight years ago. In the Big Apple, Liesl wrote, "We had food delivered probably five times a week - Sushi, Italian, Thai, Greek, yummy salads, egg sandwiches - you name it. We even had our dog's food delivered to our door!" Hill resident Elizabeth Buchanan, husband Russ, and nearlytwo-year-old daughter, Skye, order delivery two to three times a month. But, Elizabeth wrote, "We'd probably order food more often if there were more choices in general, particularly more healthy ones." Another Hill resident, Andrea Everitt, bemoaned, "...we live in some strange delivery vortex – I've lost count of the number of times that our order has been lost, forgotten or taken two plus hours to get to us."

In addition to limited delivery options, many folks commented on the lack of quality. Political consultant, policy analyst and mother of two, Melissa Millsaps, whose husband Phillip Yun works for the Asia Foundation, has yet to find good Chinese food delivery. She wrote, "It's really hard to find places that deliver on the Hill. We still haven't had any luck getting good Chinese. I've tried some of the places that leave flyers, but they have been really bad." Ludwig added a personal plea to the Hill's restaurateurs, "What kills me is that we have a pizza, French, Italian and Chinese food within two blocks of our house and none of them will deliver to us! Crazy!" Mother of five-year-old twins, Kristin Laymon concurred: "One, and sometimes two, nights a week we order delivery, depending on our level of exhaustion. On my wish list is Connecticut Yankee to deliver. I'm fond of their big salads."

Despite the stomach grumblings, there are a handful of places -

recommended by your neighbors – that deliver within the View's readership area:

Al Hamra 3083 16th Street 621.3935

Unassuming Indian/Pakistani restaurant that offers free delivery and features tandoori, vegetarian dishes and several kinds of naan. Jennifer Alden wrote, "Delicious Indian food. Can be a bit spicy for the little ones, be sure to ask for mild and tell them it's for children."

Big Nates Barbeque 1665 Folsom Street 861.4242 www.bignatesbarbeque.com

Southern BBQ joint owned by former pro basketball player Nate Thurmond offers online ordering and delivery for registered users, though registration is free.

Goat Hill Pizza 715 Harrison Street 974.1303 www.goathillpizza.com

Best known for its "All-You-Can-Eat Neighborhood Night" on Mondays, Goat Hill Pizza delivers to southeast San Francisco from its Harrison Street location.

Jasmine Tea House 3253 Mission Street 826.6288 www.jasmineteahouse.com

Architect and busy mom, Julie Jackson wrote, "Great Chinese and dim sum (order two entrees and get a free chow mein or fried rice — great for lunch the next day!) Is it lunchtime? Just thinking about food is making me hungry."

Little Nepal 925 Cortland Avenue 643.3881 www.littlenepalsf.com

"It's very tasty," wrote Everitt, "similar flavors to Indian food, but just different enough to be interesting, and the delivery timeframes have been reliable."

Luna Park 694 Valencia Street 553.8584 www.lunaparksf.com

Officially, Luna Park doesn't deliver east of Potrero Avenue, but as one poster to quintstreet.com wrote, "They will deliver to the western part of Potrero Hill. We live at 20th and De Haro and we sometimes have to sweet talk them, but it's worth it."

Mikado Sushi 1684 Bryant Street 565.0988 http://mikado-sushi.com With a minimum order of \$20, Mikado Sushi delivers to Potrero Hill, Mission, and South-of-Market. Buchanan wrote, "Not sure it's superior sushi/Japanese, but it makes a change when the other choices for delivery are limited."

Pakwan Restaurant 501 O'Farrell Street 776.0160 www.pakwanrestaurant.com

For Indian and Pakistani food, Paula Karlovac recommended Pakwan, "The food is fab and the order time is always very quick."

Spicy Bite 3501 Mission Street 647.4037 http://spicy-bite.com

Although its website doesn't list 94107 as one of its delivery zip codes, several Hillians recommended Spicy Bite as a place that delivers to the Hill.

Star of India 2127 Polk Street 292.6699 http://starofindiaonpolk.com

Free delivery to the Hill with a

\$30 minimum order. Ludwig wrote, "They are not close, but they deliver and the food is great. Just be sure to allow 45-60 minutes wait time."

Xtreme Pizza on Folsom 1052 Folsom Street 701.9000 www.extremepizza.com

Xtreme Pizza delivers to Potrero Hill and environs. Laymon wrote it "has a Tuesday special where you order one pizza and get the second free. I recommend the Paia Pie (Canadian bacon and mandarin oranges) pizza and one cheese pizza for the kids."

Zante Pizza 3489 Mission Street 821.3949 http://zantespizza.com

Strangely compelling, Zante Pizza boasts pizza and Indian cuisine with free city-wide delivery. Buchanan wrote, "My husband and I order fairly regularly [from Zante's.] We find the Indian food more consistently good than the pizza, but the Indian pizza is certainly interesting."



Back: John Ellis, L.Ac.; Frank Gilson, D.C Front: Jackie Mendoza, Manager, Fabiola Garcia, Manager

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Streamline Graphix Raises a Biodegradable **Banner for Sustainability**

By Kristin Abkemeier

Starting this summer, outdoor advertising banners and signs in San Francisco will turn over a new green leaf. Dogpatch-based Streamline Graphix will be the first Bay Area printer to print their large-scale outdoor banners on BIOflex, the only hiodegradable vinyl sign material currently available. The material, in combination with eco-solvent inks, results in high-quality exterior signs that will decompose in landfills when they're retired.

"We are not in an eco-friendly industry, but we're trying to do our part," said Nancy Longo, Streamline's co-owner and chief operating officer. The six-person firm produces large-scale graphic signs for clients throughout the Bay Area, including the San Francisco Zoo, City Carshare, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, and top advertising agencies and marketing

Besides being first in the Bay Area to use the new biodegradable vinyl material, Streamline is one of the only printers in the region to rely on eco-solvent inks that release fewer fumes. Longo said that while Streamline attracts customers by its reputation for value, quality, and customer service, "if customers want to try to help the environment, we

want to help them do that."

Digitally-produced outdoor signs have become so common that an urban dweller might not notice them any more. Detailed photographic imagery wraps the sides of buses and delivery trucks, and hangs on outdoor walls in places where a traditional advertising billboard can't reach. Soon enough these banners are taken down, thrown into the trash, and sent to the landfill.

An outdoor banner needs to withstand sun, rain, and wind; the material needs to be durable, and the inks need to be lightfast, waterproof, and resistant to abrasion. Polyvinyl chloride, also known as PVC or vinyl, is the preferred material for these reasons, but it doesn't degrade once deposited in a landfill. The Vinyl News Service website promoting vinyl states, "PVC is so stable in landfills that vinyl membranes have been used as landfill liners and caps." However, when landfill fires occur and there are an average of 8,400 landfill fires annually among the nation's 2,200 landfills, according to a 2002 U.S. Fire Administration report -- burning PVC releases dioxins, chemicals that can accumulate in human systems and cause a variety of harmful health effects.

Streamline Graphix will receive its first supply of BIOflex this summer. "BIOflex is still PVC-coated vinyl,

but with an additive," said Jaime Giannantonio, marketing manager at Ultraflex, which manufactures the material. When BIOflex is deposited into a landfill, microbes that thrive in the conditions of darkness, heat, and moisture are attracted to the additive. "They eat away at the BIOflex and it becomes biodegradable," Giannantonio said, adding that Ultraflex adjusted the amount of additive to enable BIOflex to disintegrate completely within three to five years. The microbes emit a nontoxic gas, and only a sodium powder residue remains afterward.

Vinyl's smooth surface has required the use of inks that include strong solvents to print high-quality images on outdoor display banners. The solvents release toxic fumes that can cause health risks if they're inhaled or come into contact with workers' eyes and skin while setting up the printer or during the printing process.

While not necessarily greener than conventional solvents in the way they're manufactured, the eco-solvents in the inks used at Streamline release fewer fumes. "When you walk in, you don't smell anything," said Longo, as she shows the company's industrial loft space, which has no special ventilation installed. Streamline has been using eco-solvent inks since early-2006.

Besides keeping Streamline's own working environment clean, and relying on recyclable paper as much as possible, Longo and her business partner, Bill Slattery, also reduce their profit margin on jobs using the eco-solvent inks so that they can provide them at competitive prices. And clients are increasingly asking that greener materials be used.

Anita Daley, City Carshare's marketing director, chose Streamline to print a few hundred banners to hang over the Bay Area parking lots in which their cars are located. "We do like Streamline because they offer the eco-friendly ink," said Daley. whose organization has an explicit goal of reducing car ownership. Though conventional vinyl is used in City Carshare's banners, they will stay on display until they're well-worn. "We need the banners for the longer term and need them to be strong, and with the eco-friendly inks, they're still a durable product." said Daley

"On a day-to-day basis, running your own business is so difficult," said Longo, citing the costs of taxes and employees, among other challenges. "But making a baby step [towards sustainability] feels good."

Doing what's best for the planet is not the easiest path. BIOflex costs up to 15 percent more than conventional vinyl materials. Longo would like to buy an electric car for making deliveries and decorate it with their own banner. But such a purchase remains as yet a green dream for Streamline Graphix. "We're struggling to survive as a San Francisco small business," said Longo. "And the costs of being green are not always low."





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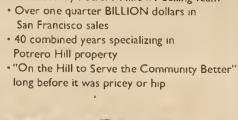
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Lia Hillman, Potrero Branch, Acting Branch Manager

One City, One Book

The citywide book club is back. This year's selection is Cane River by Lalita Tademy. According to the San Francisco Public Library's web page, "In this extensively researched personal odyssey, Lalita Tademy brings to life four vivid and remarkable women in her family, beginning in slavery, sweeping through the Civil War, and into the pre-Civil Rights South. Set on a Creole plantation on the banks of Louisiana's Cane River, this New York Times best seller is a beautifully written slice of American history never before seen in such piercing and personal detail."

Children Programs

The 2007 Summer Reading Club is in full swing, but there's still time to signup! Read books and win prizes! The program ends on August 11. Sign-up at any neighborhood library.

Wednesday, August 1, 1 p.m.. Origami-Bookmaking: Creating Colorful Unfolding Books. Potrero Hill's Peter Linenthal will guide children in producing easy to make and impressive un-folding books. For children of all ages.

Thursdays, August 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, 10 a.m.. Infant/Toddler Lapsit, featuring stories, songs, and rhymes. For children newborn to three-yearsold.

Thursdays, August 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, 10:50 a.m.. Preschool Story-time. For children three to seven-years-old.

Tuesdays, August 7, 21, and 29, 6:30 p.m.. Stories and Hands-on Art. After listening to a story children will be invited to create art based on what they've heard.

Wednesday, August 8, 2 p.m.. The Bubble Lady. Enjoy the zany fun of the Bubble Lady's effervescent antics. For all ages.

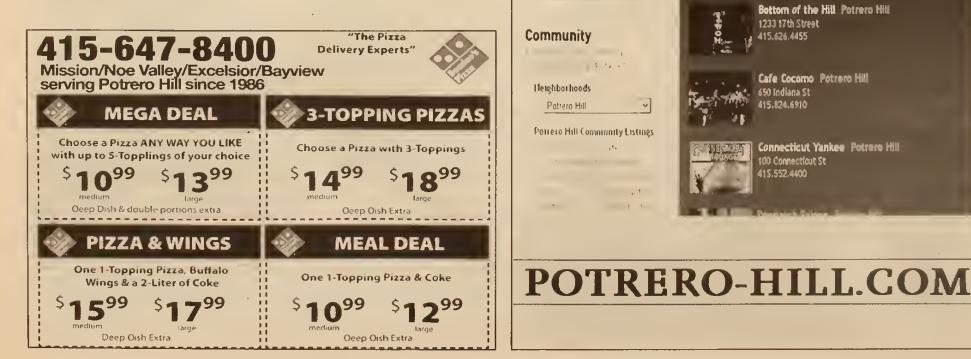
Tuesday, August 14, 7 p.m.. Film night, with Good Night Gorilla, Great White Man-Eating Shark, and The Happy Lion. For children three and older.

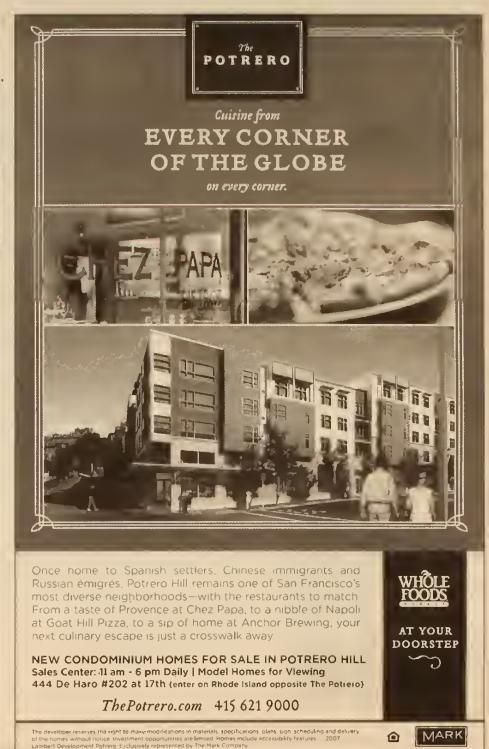
Wednesday, August 22, 10 a.m., Stories and Yoga for Children, lead by Marianna Doig. For children of all ages.

Teen Programs

August 3, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Teen Summer Read party at the Main Library, 100 Larkin Street, Latino Hispanic Room. For more information: 557.4268.

Want to help raise funds for your neighborhood library? The Neighborhood Capital Campaign Committee meets monthly to discuss fundraising strategies and progress. Please join us on August 15 at 6:30 p.m.





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Sale Pending! 577 & 579 Mississippi @20th



Unit 577 - \$1,049,000 Unit 579 - \$1,195,000

Two stunning custom built condos just completed in 2007. Both condominiums are two levels and include one car side-by-side parking. Both feature gourmet chef's kitchens with high end stainless steel appliances, and open living-dining room combination with gas fireplaces.

579 Mississippi (upper unit) has 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, a large view deck off living area, bay views, washer/dryer hookops, ,vaulted ceilings, and skylights throughout.

577 Mississippi (lower unit) has 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, washer/dryer hookups, a deeded patio and garden, double height ceilings, and skylights.



Continued from Front Page

chemicals in common toiletry items could cause health problems. And the chemicals may pose risks to the environment when they make their way into landfills and waterways. While sewage treatment plants remove some chemicals from waste water, they do not eliminate the chemical ingredients in many medicines and personal care products. "Waste water treatments aren't designed to remove hormones and chemicals at that level," said the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's (SFPUC) Tyrone Jue.

In 2003, fish with both male and female reproductive characteristics were discovered in the Potomac River watershed; more recently "intersex" fish have heen found off the Southern California coastline. While the causes of the genetic alterations are unknown, scientists speculate that the fishes' reproductive systems were changed, at least in part, as a result of chemical pollutants from human pharmaceuticals and personal care products that enter water bodies through household drains, groundwater leakage from landfills and human waste.

Public health advocates say reducing toxic chemicals and hormones used in personal care products and pharmaccuticals would be good for consumers and the environment. "If companies removed the [toxics] from their products, it would have a positive effect downstream as well," said Kevin Donegan of the Breast Cancer

Fund, a member of the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics.

Concern about potentially toxic cosmetics has been building for years. Starting this year, the California Safe Cosmetics Act requires cosmetic manufacturers to publicly report the ingredients they use as part of the Proposition 65 registry, an annually updated list of chemicals that are known to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm. The Act is the nation's first state law regulating what has previously been an essentially self-policing indostry.

"The California Safe Cosmetics Act is a big step forward, but what we'd like to see is stronger federal regulations," said Donegan. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration doesn't test cosmetics before they're marketed, and the regulatory hody that evaluates cosmetic ingredients, the Cosmetic Ingredient Review, is funded largely by the manufacturers themselves.

Cosmetic companies are increasingly dropping controversial ingredients from their products before the government intervenes. According to the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics, nearly 550 companies — including The Body Shop, Juice Beauty, Pharmacopia and Zia Natural Skincare – have signed its Compact for Safe Cosmetics, promising to eliminate toxic ingredients from their products by 2010. The pledge also requires participating cosmetic firms to adopt the European Union's

Continued on Page 16



A few examples of alternative, less toxic, cosmetic products.





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OTAS

& ENTERTAINMENT

August 2007

August

Health: Drop-in Vaccines for School Kids

Uninsured children can receive their immunizations at no cost at the University of California, San Francisco's Valencia Health Services clinic. The clinic is open four days a week (closed on Wednesdays), 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., and provides well-baby and well-child checkups in addition to its drop-in immunization service. 1647 Valencia Street, between Cesar Chavez and Mission. More information: 647.3666.

Genius: Da Vinci

See the Northern American debut of the most comprehensive traveling exhibition ever compiled of Leonardo da Vinci's work. \$15.50 for children; \$9.50 for adults. Metreon, 101 4th Street, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.. Tickets available at the Metreon, through www. davincithegenius.com, or by calling 877.LEOTIXS. Show runs through the end of the year.

August 3

Health: Resource Fair

Receive free health screenings related to diabetes, blood pressure, and cholesterol. 1 to 4 p.m., 455 Golden Gate Avenue. Information: 557.3013.

August 4

Community: Reclaim Warm Water Cove Park

Help the Community Clean Team reclaim Warm Water Cove Park – one of the only waterfront parks in the eastern neighborhoods – by cleaning up graffiti, plucking weeds, and removing litter. Free barbecue lunch follows the clean-up. 9 a.m. to noon, where 24th Sreet meets the 8ay. Information: 641.2625; www.sfconnect.org.

Music: CounterPULSE

CounterPULSE, San Francisco's premiere venue for cutting-edge and multidisciplinary performance, presents a benefit concert that pushes the boundaries of the "rock show," bringing more than 50 musicians and performers together. Rock 4 Art features 50 guitars, a cave girl, a unitard, the underworld, burlesque, funky soul, a hard rockin' ride, and angels. \$8 to \$20 sliding scale. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., show 8 p.m. to midnight. CounterPULSE, 1310 Mission Street. Information: 435.7552.

August 5

Benefit: Help is On the Way

The Richmond/Ermet AIDS Foundation presents Help is On the Way XIII, a star-studded gala concert benefiting five 8ay Area AIDS Service Organizations: Aguilas, AIDS Legal Referral Panel, Maitri, STOP AIDS Project, and Vital Life Services. The show features celebrities Lucy Lawless, Marissa Jaret

Winokur, Phoebe Snow, and others. Tickets \$175, 7 to 9:30 p.m., The Palace of Fine Arts, 3301 Lyon \$t. Information: 273.1620; www.reaf.org.

Kids: Car Dissection

The Exploratorium presents a car dissection; a chance to peer and poke around in the oily guts of an automobile. Get dirty helping Jim Diffily, Vice President of Collections at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, take apart leaky grill pans and gaskets, and learn what "grill pans" and "gaskets" mean in the process. Skylight Area, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., The Exploratorium, 3601 Lyon Street. Information: 563.7337; www. exploratorium.edu.

Music: First Annual Soul Jazz Festival Jazziz Magazine presents Ladybug Mecca of Digable Planets with 8rian Jackson and his band Original Guerilla, plus MO'Rockin Project. \$20/\$25 at the door. 9 p.m., Mezzanine, 444 Jessie Street.

August 7

Speaker: Mark Leno

Listen to assemblyman Mark Leno discuss his campaign for state senate at the Potrero Hill Democratic Club's (PHDemClub) monthly meeting at The Nabe. The PHDemClub meets the first Tuesday of every month, and hosts local and state candidates, officials, panelists, and spokespersons. 7 p.m., Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street. Information: 648.6740; www.phdemclub.org.

August 8

Community: Mission Bay Community Task Force Meeting

A forum for University of California, San Francisco staff and neighbors to discuss the future direction of the Mission 8ay campus. 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., Genetech Hall, Room 114, 600 16th Street. Information: 476.8318, or bblopez@cgr.ucsf.edu.

August 9

Community: Mission Bay Citizens Advisory Committee

Find out the latest about Mission 8ay land development and related issues. 5:30 p.m., 244 Channel Street.

Community: Eastern Neighborhoods Rezoning and Area Plans

Let the Planning Commission know what you think about the draft environmental impact report (EIR) examining the consequences of various land use policies. 1:30 p.m. or thereafter, Room 40, City Hall. Checkout the EIR at http://www.sfgov.org/site/planning_index.asp?id=25288.

August 10

Health Fair: Homeless Prenatal Program

The Homeless Prenatal Program invites families to attend its 2nd annual Family Health and Wellness Fair. The HPP will feature health screenings, blood pressure readings, body mass index calculations, healthy snack demonstrations, massage, acupuncture, home safety tips, and art workshops for children. All activities are free. 1 to 3 p.m., Homeless Prenatal Program, 2500 18th Street. Information: 546.6756; www.homelessprenatal.org.

Theater: Facing East

Facing East is the story of Ruth and Alex McCormick, an upstanding Mormon couple reeling from the suicide of their gay son. Stuck between their faith and their new reality, they encounter their son's partner, Marcus, for the first time. Through August 26. \$20. Plan 8 Theatre Company, Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th Street. Information: 861.5079; www.planbtheatre.org/facingeast.

Theater: Angel Face

The Z Space Studio presents Angel Face, the story of a gorgeous gal stripper who must flirt and flaunt her way into the dark depths of gang-torn New York to save her brother from a bogus murder rap. This thriller is written by the godfather of Noir, Cornell Woolrich. Runs through September 2. Saturday 8 p.m., Sunday 5 p.m., Project Artaud Theater, 450 Florida Street. Information: 439.2456; www.zspace.org/angelface.htm.

August 11

Kinetic Creations: Wind-Powered Wonders

Invent and build your own wind-powered wonder to add to a collaborative display at the Exploratorium. Experiment with different materials that bend, twist, and create energy when touched by the wind. For ages eight and older. Skylight Auditorium, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., The Exploratorium, 3601 Lyon Street. Information: 563.7337; www. exploratorium.edu.

August 15

Workshop: Stand-Up Comedy

San Francisco Comedy College (SFCC) hosts this free workshop that will introduce you to the Joke Diagram, a formula that illustrates the structure of every joke or funny story you've ever heard. This workshop also reviews the Rehearsal Technique, gives an overview of SFCC workshops and events, and offers some cavity-producing sugary products. 8 p.m., San Francisco Comedy College, 414 Mason Street. Information: 921.2051; RichSFCC@yahoo.com.

August 16

Art Exhibit: Transmissions San Francisco's Creativity Explored

and Alabama's Studio by the
Trackspresent a collaborative exhibition

of snail mail art created by artists with developmental disabilities; 200 pieces of art were mailed back and forth between artists at Creativity Explored and Studio by the Tracks in Irondale, Alabama, collecting stamps, postmarks and paint flourishes as artists played off each other's works. Runs through September 27. Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday 1 to 6 p.m, Creativity Explored Gallery, 3245 16th Street. Information: 863.2108; www. creativityexplored.org.

August 18

Picnic: San Francisco Tomorrow

Join San Francisco Tomorrow's annual picnic, and discuss the construction of a new transit terminal to bring Caltrain downtown. Review plans to create more affordable housing on former freeway land, and learn about proposals for high-rise buildings south of Market. \$25-\$35 sliding scale,11:30 a.m., Sue 8ierman Park. Information: 564.1482.

August 23

Music: Big Bones

Enjoy the rhythm and blue of 8ig 8ones, "Da 8one-a-Fides," featuring the three-for-one world debut: Mama Bones, Emley 8ones & 8ig 8ones. 7 p.m., Farley's Café, 1315 18th Street. Information: 648.1545; www.farleyscoffee.com.

August 25

Benefit Concert: Gospel Explosion Join the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House for a Gospel Explosion 8enefit

Concert to celebrate their "100th Anniversary." Enjoy the sounds of local Gospel Choirs including featured guest Devine Purpose Revival Choir. All proceeds benefit the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House. Tickets \$40, 6 p.m., UCSF Mission Bay Conference Center, 1675 Owens Street. Information: 826-8080.

Got an event you want listed in a future issue of the *Potrero View*? Send details to office@potreroview.net

Deadline: no later than the $15^{\rm th}$ of the previous month.



GETTING INVOLVED

Dogpatch Neighborhood Association usually meets the second Tuesday of each even-numbered month. The next meeting is August 14, at Sundance Coffee on Third Street at 20th Street from 7 to 9 p.m.

Potrero Boosters meets the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (social time begins at 6:30 p.m.) in the wheelchair-accessible Game Room of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro Street. For more information, visit www.potreroboosters.org or contact President Tony Kelly at 341.8040 or president@potreroboosters.org. Next meeting: August 28, 7 p.m.

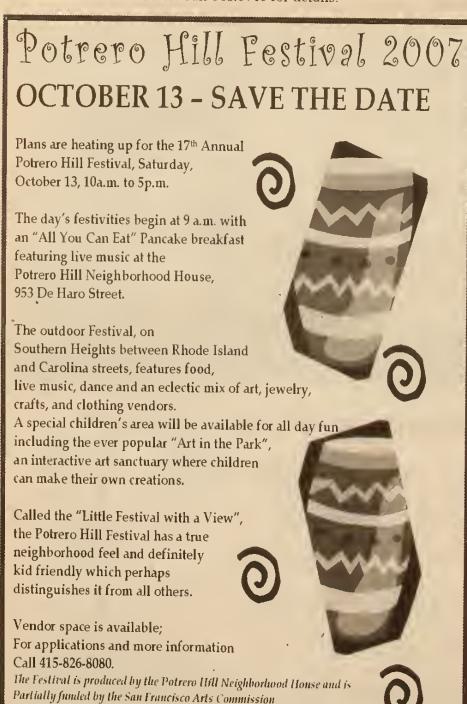
Potrero Hill Association of Merchants & Businesses (PHAMB) meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at Goat Hill Pizza, corner of Connecticut and 18th streets. Visit www.potrerohill.biz or call 341.8949. Next meeting: August 14, 10 a.m.

Bayview Police Station Captain's Community Meeting is held on the first Tuesday of each month in the Bayview Police Station Community Room at 201 William Street. Access can be gained by entering through the Newhall Street door. Next meeting: August 7, 6 p.m.

Potrero Hill Democratic Club meets the First Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House. 953 DeHaro St. For more information, call 648.6740, www. PHDcmClub.org. Next meeting: August 7, 7p.m.

Starr King Openspace Board of Directors meets the third Tuesday of each odd-numbered month at 7 p.m. at the Potrero Branch Library, 1616 20th Street. Volunteer for the Park work days continue every month on the third Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call 819.4900. Next meeting: September 18. Next Volunteer Day: August 18.

Potrero Hill Garden Club usually meets the last Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. for a potluck lunch in a local home or garden. Discussions are held on subjects related to organic, edible, or ornamental gardening appropriate for Potrero Hill's microclimate. Call 648.6740 for details.





Local Historians Gather to Compare Stories

By Peter linenthal

Earlier this summer volunteers and staff from the Potrero Hill Archives Project, Bernal Heights Preservation, and Visitation Valley History Project met for the first time to share ideas, historic photos and films. Among the tidbits that were swapped was the local legend that a massive rock in a Visitation Valley backyard was the site of a campsite used by Spanish soldiers and Franciscan friars in 1777. And who knew that the Bancroft Library

began in a brick Victorian, long gone, near St. Luke's Hospital? The three groups share something besides geographic proximity: books on each of the neighborhoods have been produced for Arcadia Publishing. In the photograph below, left to right, Abigail Johnston, of the Potrero Hill Archives Project, Peter Field and Natalie Wisniewski pour over old photos. Save the date: Potrero Hill History Night, focusing on Hill artists and writers, will be held Saturday, October 27, at the International High School, 655 De Haro Street.



Photo by Peter Linenthal

Continued from Page 12

chemical safety standards, which banned the use of known carcinogens and reproductive toxins in personal care products three years ago.

As a result of the California Safe Cosmetics Act and growing pressure from grassroots organizations like Women's Voices for the Earth, OPI Products Inc. recently announced that it has stopped using the chemicals toluene and dibutyl phthalate in its nail polish. However, the North Hollywood-based company is still being pressured by the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics and the Breast Cancer Fund for continuing to rely on formaldehyde, a known carcinogen.

While progress is being made towards safer cosmetics, activists like Donegan say it's not enough. "There's still a lot more to be done," he said. Meanwhile, environmental advocates urge consumers to stop buying products containing toxic chemicals. "If you're really going to be sustainable, the whole idea of pollution prevention is not using them in the first place," said Jennifer Clary of San Francisco Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund.

Safely Dumping Outdated Lipstick

Choosing the right cosmetic to use in the first place is an important step towards ensuring inner, as well as outer, beauty, but it doesn't help consumers properly dispose of old or unwanted personal care products that have piled up on bathroom shelves.

The San Francisco Recycling and Disposal Center's Household Hazardous Waste facility, located at 501 Tunnel Avenue in Bayview, is the only place in the City equipped to safely destroy personal care products. Products are incinerated through an environmentally-friendly process that doesn't produce hazardous emissions. The Center will pick-up waste for a \$35 fce, which is waived for the elderly and disabled. Call 330,1405 for more information.

Residents can either recycle product containers and packaging by disposing of them in the proper receptacles at home or seek out cosmetics companies that offer take-back recycling programs. For example, MAC customers can return empty containers directly to MAC stores or mail them in; the company provides a free face cosmetic for every dozen containers returned MAC turns their waste into new packaging. Kiehl's also allows customers to return empty containers to local stores for recycling into future product packaging.

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Visit Mary's website at <u>www.marylace.com</u> for more real estate information.

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Police Blotter

Wednesday, July 11, 2:10 a.m., Attempted Homicide, 2650 San Bruno Avenue. A motorist was shot at in an apparent road rage incident. The intended victim was driving his Corvette on San Bruno Avenue when he was cut-off the road by a passing vehicle. The Corvette caught up with the other car, which had stopped. As the Corvette driver was confronting the driver who'd passed him a group of Asian men shouted a racial epithet and began to fire a gun at him. The Corvette driver sped off towards the Mission District, where he flagged down an officer. The gunman was described as an Asian male 5'4", 130 pounds, black pants, white t-shirt and spiky hair. He was seen fleeing the area in a black Acura Integra with a carbon fiber hood

Wednesday, July 11, 6:19 a.m., Burglary, Stolen Recovered Automobiles, Carolina and Townsend streets. Police officers responded to a report that a person just had their car stolen out of a garage. While en route to the scene, Officers Brewster and Dalton spotted the car on Connecticut Street. The driver and two occupants were detained when they were parking the car. Other officers met with the victim, who told them that she'd left her house to walk her dog and left her garage door unlocked, with the car keys hanging next to it. When she returned home she found that her car was missing. The woman described a shady-looking character wearing a blue coat, which appears to be the person who was driving her car.

While the investigation was under way, a red Wrangler was speeding up Connecticut Street. Officer Dalton flagged down the driver, who stopped. The driver stated that he borrowed the car from his friend; however the car was registered in someone else's name that resided in

the South of Market area. A request was made for an officer to meet with the car's registered owner to verify its whereabouts. Members of the Southern police station went to the address, a large live-work space on Townsend Street, and discovered that its metal front door was ripped from its frame. While conducting a walkthrough they woke up the registered owner. The owner confirmed that his premises had been burglarized while he slept and that his Jeep and his girlfriend's BMW had been taken from the garage. In this case the owner and his girlfriend left their keys in the ignition.

Both suspects were on probation for similar crimes and booked for burglary and auto theft.

Saturday, July 14th, 4:49 p.m., Auto Burglary, Parole Violation, Rhode Island Street. Sheriff's Deputies from General Hospital saw a man breaking into a BMW that was parked on Rhode Island Street. They summoned police assistance. When the police arrived on the scene the suspect was still inside the car and wouldn't come out. Another officer made contact with the car's owner. who opened the door with her remote for the officers. The suspect was taken out of the car and placed into custody. He was booked for auto burglary and a parole violation.

Sunday, July 15, 2:34 p.m., Hot Prowl Burglary, San Bruno Avenue. A woman heard noises from her garage. She investigated and saw a man standing in her garage. The woman grabbed her phone, ran outside, and called the police. The suspect fled the scene. Police soon arrived and discovered that the suspect had forced the garage door open. Nothing was taken from the home. The woman was unable to provide a suspect description.



Long-Time Potrero Hill Resident Rosalie Dinslage Passes at 96

On Tuesday, May 8, 2007 longtime Potrero Hill resident Rosalie "Rosic" Dinslage passed away at the home her father built on 18th Street. She was 96-years-old.

As a young girl Rosie attended St Tcresa's Church on Missouri Street, played baseball at Jackson Playground, and graduated from the San Francisco Conservancy of Music as a concert pianist. She was fluent in Italian. Rosie never played piano professionally, instead working at the Better Value Market, where Aperto Restaurant is currently located. Up until her 80s Rosie could be spotted walking to neighborhood shops and visiting nearby friends.

Rosie was married to the late Bernhart Dinslage. She is survived by her two sons, Ronald and David, her grandchildren Justin and Shauna, and her great-grandchildren Taylor and Taryn Murry.





Today's Real Estate in San Francisco

hy Angela Ruhin & Marianne Schier



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The reality is that you are usually better off finding another home that truly meets your needs and wishes. You can do the necessary research and wind up very confident that your next home's value hasn't been distorted by additions to or subtractions from its original design, and isn't out of line with the value of other homes in the same neighborhood. Further, you don't have the problem of trying to fit square pegs into existing round holes, or newborn children into former closers.

By far the most important issue is to know exactly what you need your new (or remodeled) home to provide you. The second issue is sheer conomics. Not only do you need to see whether you can get the money back out of your house that you put into it in a remodel, but you also need to look at market conditions. Is it reasonably easy to sell this home today? How easy or difficult is it to buy another? What would the differences be between financing your remodel and financing the purchase of another home? Again, be sure to talk with your real estate advisor about these questions, Just call Angela or Marianne at 447-6210 or 345-3469.

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low-value radios and other articles mistakenly left inside to trade for a quick fix.

On July 9, 19-year-old Demetrius Maybums was shot on Third Street and LaSalle Avenue, a few blocks south of Cesar Chavez. Yet despite continued violence in Bayview - murder rates in San Francisco peaked at their highest level in the past decade last year - housing prices in the area have continued to rise. Public and private wealth is coming to the community, in the form of the T-Third Street Rail and new shops and restaurants, but many residents remain as un- or under-employed as ever. Crime may be just the street level expression of a citywide conflict over how land in the Southeast will be used, and by whom.

"I really didn't know becoming a cop would be so political," said Leudtke as he patrolled his post. task, and in San Francisco it can feel especially thankless, because there's so much politics at stake."

"Nowadays we call the housing projects, 'Housing Developments,' in our department," said Leudtke as he rolled his cop car into Double Rock, located across the street form Candlestick Park, at 10 p.m. on a Friday night. "The last thing we want to do is assign them a negative connotation."

The careful choice of words can't disguise the syringes tossed on the ground, the barren yards, and the broken baby strollers which make Double Rock one of the most sterilelooking residential landscapes in San Francisco. The complex - a fenced in cul-de-sac of ramshackle public housing units - is home to hard-working families employed in legitimate nine-to-five jobs, as well as those who find more creative ways to make a living.

"Those teenagers up there, idling up there in their black hoodies," said Cahill, who has been policing Bayview for a half-decade. "Those are spotters. They are the younger kids who guard their turf during drug deals, on the lookout for rival gang members."

The spotters that patrol Double Rock's grounds appear to be around 15-years-old, though with their hoods tugged over their eyes and hardly talking, guessing their age is a crapshoot. "When we get a call and the description is 'guy in a black sweatshirt' we have the saying: 'It's the same guy!'" laughed Leudkte in mock jest, while leaning out his "Being a cop can be a thankless, vehicle to wave to a group of nineyear-olds riding their bikes. The kids wave back, huge grins eclipsing their faces while they chased the patrol car down the street.

> "They don't have much here, but they sure have a lot of pride," said Leudtke, who's also a five-year veteran of the Bayview division, staggering his time with military stints in Bosnia, Haiti, and Iraq. "One family up there runs a snack shop out of her house, and you can see how much time this lady puts into her garden," commented Cahill, Leudtke's partner, or "work wife" as

Everyone knows everyone in

the housing development, and that includes Leudtke and Cahill, who many residents know by name. This intimacy can create a problem for the police, since gang members are notorious for avenging anyone who snitches on their operations. Eliciting information from witnesses, particularly about murders, can prove impossibly difficult, but anonymous calls still flood Bayview police headquarters like clockwork. "The question isn't, 'Do you get called here daily?" said Cahill. "It's, 'How many calls a day do you get from Double Rock?'"

"It's sometimes startling what you see inside those houses though," sighed Leudtke. "I'll never forget one of my first days on the job when I got a call for a drug bust. I entered a house and saw a father, one beaten mattress, and a tub of mayonnaise in the fridge, and that was it. Then I look outside, and this guy had the most souped-up Cadillac Escalade l had ever seen. The painful part: he had three kids."

Tonight, one Double Rock mother spots the cops, and hurries her child away from their vehicle. Most Bayview-Hunters Point residents, however, welcome the police with their eyes, finding comfort in the slowly cruising vehicle. "I work hard. They're working people. We come out on the right side," shrugged Leudtke.

Indeed, Cahill and Leudtke do their best to be good cops. They try to avoid racial profiling, and debate the historic factors that have shorn Bayview of so many community

resources. They spend a half-hour making sure that a woman tweaking on crack gets to the hospital safely. They even harbor their own theories on how to reduce crime.

August 2007

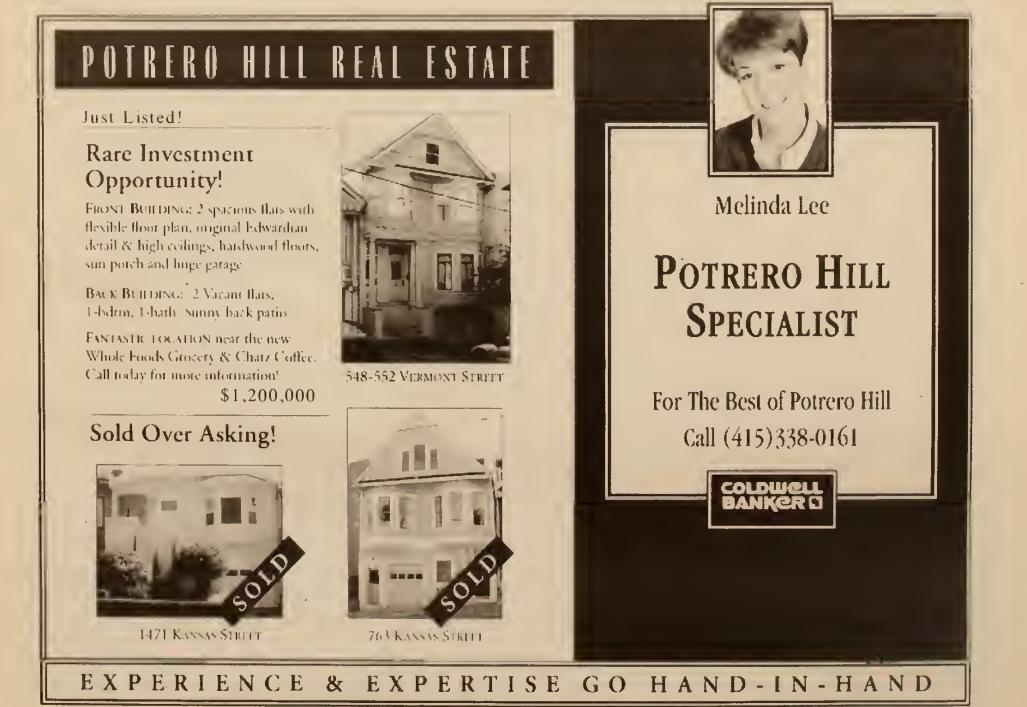
"We have a huge problem with recidivism," said Leudtke, referring to repeat offenders. "San Francisco has a very lax policy when it comes to gun possession. For example, illegal gun possession in San Francisco will land you maximum three months in jail. In San Mateo the sentencing is much harsher."

A few years ago District Attorney Kamala Harris, backed by Mayor Gavin Newsom, toughened sentencing for gun possession in San Francisco: the time spent for misdemeanor gun offenses used to be limited to 10 days. In 2005, San Francisco nearly doubled the conviction rate for felony gun cases that went to trial.

Leudtke believes that longer gun sentences is one of the most effective ways to combat crime, since most dangerous gang members carry a gun, and fewer gun-totting gangsters on the streets means less gang member recruitment. "But you can't stop there," he said. "At the same time, you have to pour tons of money into education, fully fund mental health, and educate parents on how to raise kids."

At the Bayview police station, posters identifying gang members drape an entire wall, with the Oakdale, Harbor Northridge, Westpoint, Double Rock, and Potrero Hill Annex and Terrace all represented. In

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another room a couple of juvenile offenders sit handcuffed to chairs awaiting paperwork, their mouths little treasure troves of gold-capped teeth. Above one of them hangs a poster with photographs of recently confiscated guns.

"Yeah, I can more than name those," the 15-year-old offender boasts, unfazed by his surroundings. "I can tell you the bullets, caliber, velocity too if ya want. That one there's a AK-47, the other a Mac10, that one's a...'

When Leudtke and Cahill step outside the station, they muse on the younger generations' precocious knowledge of guns. "They get a lot from television and video games," acknowledges Cahill. "But these kids in the gangs can't even leave their housing developments because they'll be recognized and attacked," Leudkte said, shaking his head. "So then there's nothing to do but sit around and sell drugs and think of how to plot attacks."

The talk transitions to the death of Bayview Officer Isaac Anthony Espinoza in April 2004, a murder which sparked a wave of controversy over gun sentencing. Espinoza was driving down the street as a plainclothes officer when he recognized David Hill, a notorious gang member, outside his normal territory. Instinctively, he knew something wasn't right and stepped out of his car, only to be shot by Hill, who also recognized him and feared arrest because he was on parole and carrying a gun. The murder speaks to two elements that define the conditions under which the Bayview police operate: a reliance on busting parole violators to secure more arrests, and the almost unreal familiarity that exists between cops and repeat crime offenders.

In his first year in office, Mayor Gavin Newsom set out to tame the City's soaring homicide rates, touting his "Project Connect" program that enlisted community members to match needy San Franciscans with available services. He also established a crime tip line, increased witness rewards, and improved witness protection services. "The worst thing we can do is maintain the status quo of people that are suffering in these conditions," said Newsom.

His programs seemed to pay off: the number of murders in San Francisco declined in 2004. But homicide rates spiked up again at the end of 2005, when 85 percent of the City's homicides were committed with guns, compared to 70 percent in 2003. And homicide rates have continued to rise.

partially derailed as a result of the media attention given to such non-crime-related events as the controversial "Cops Gone Wild" video. In response to the 2005 leak of the internal police video, in which Bayview officers performed parody skits for their station's Christmas party, San Francisco Police Chief Heather Fong, with the mayor by her side, announced: "This is a dark day,

an extremely dark day in the history of San Francisco Police Department." Newsom called the video "racist, sexist, and homophobic," and Fong suspended 24 officers, many of whom had metals of valor.

Rank-and-file police officers were stung by the rebuke. Officer Clayton Harmston, a European-American who is seen in one of the video sequences doing an extensive, and rather goofy, session of Tai Chi, was accused by Newsom and Fong of perpetrating a vicious Asian stereotype. But, according to Cahill, the back-story behind the skit was that in real-life Clay had been shot by a violator on parole and needed Tai Chi to relax. Clayton's shooter was acquitted of attempted murder and only sentenced for brandishing a weapon because the jury couldn't be certain who fired the shot; the parole violator or a friend. The bullet remains lodged in Harmston's hindquarters.

Asian-American Officer Alex Kwan is seen in the video crashing his bike into a car, which was interpreted as a slap against Asian-American drivers. According to Leudtke, the officer being filmed is in fact a poor bicycle rider, who actually crashed his bike into his captain's car during his cycling test, and was ticketed for damaging property.

In the wake of the highly publicized "video-gate" Newsom's attempts to control crime have become less visible, consisting of modest initiatives to repave streets and basketball courts and replace playground equipment and streetlights, as well as efforts to put more cops on the streets. Just last month the city deployed 37 more police officers to walk the beat in the Mission, Tenderloin, and Western Addition neighborhoods.

But the political spats aren't what grate many Bayview police officers, but rather what they see as a lack of ongoing support from the mayor's office. "The only time I've seen the mayor personally is at funerals, talking about sacrificing for our City in front of the cameras. But he didn't show up at the Bayview police station . after Nick [Tomasito Birko] died to pass on his condolences, now did he?" asked Leudtke.

Bayview Officer Nick Tomasito Birko died in a car crash chasing robbery suspects in July 2006, when the alleged suspects collided into his vehicle. His death marked a depressing year for the Bayview Station, which was still shell-shocked from the loss of Espinoza. It's unusual for two police officers from the same station to die from unrelated incidences within a two year period, according to Cahill.

"After that video came out, Newsom's efforts may have heen Newsom gets up in front of all the press and announces, 'This is a dark, dark day for the city of San Francisco.' Yeah, I'd like to see Newsom come down to the station when one of our own men die just doing his job, or when these kids get murdered by their peers, and then start talking to me about 'dark, dark days in San Francisco,'" added

Cahill and Leudtke can spot gang

members staking their turf from blocks away, almost as if a sixth sense tips them off. "Hey look, it's Curtis Johnson again," points out Cahill at 11:30 p.m., after departing the Bayview police station. "What's up Curtis?" shouts Leudtke out the window. Curtis spews out a gruff hello, points to his bladder, and says it's been killing him. "Well, get yourself some medicine," suggests Leudkte. "You've got to take eare of yourself."

"We've known that guy for ages," Cahill explained. "He's been in and out of the station a whole bunch of times. In fact his white Mustang was the one that we saw punctured with bullet holes earlier. Remember?"

The Bayview cops keep track of gang members almost as closely as they do their own kin, following their lives from childhood gang recruitment onward. "There's this one kid 'Noodles', as we call him, and man I'm really pulling for him," said Cahill. "He's a smart kid, good in school, and we've been telling him all these years not to get involved in gangs. But slowly and surely, they get sucked in."

"All my friends can really sympathize with the Noodles story," said Leudtke. "It's like in the movies: maybe, just maybe, one kid can get out of here and make a name for himself." Leudkte grows visibly irritated, "But you know, when you tell people that a woman's kid died of mange, and she didn't eall the cops for three hours...man, they just don't believe you."

The cop car turns into Harbor

Northridge, a housing complex nested on a steep incline with gorgeous Bay views. Even as it sits in the eye of the gang war tornado, it doesn't take much imagination to picture real estate investors signing contracts on the spot, pitching it as a long-term investment. "Yeah, I'm always stunned by the views myself...hey do you see that?" Cahill puts on the brakes. "The Community Employment Center sign: it's covered in bullet holes."

Just around the corner the "Boys and Girls Club" is temporarily shutdown; it's the only visible recreation center in the entire maze of public housing. More murals honoring the dead mark the complexes than swings or playground slides. The units stretch out endlessly, rows of muted brown and green cubes that haven't been refurbished since their construction.

Cahill and Leudtke swerve up another hill into the Oakdale housing units and abruptly park their car on a steeped bank, where a gaggle of kids play tag under an enormous "We love you Charlie" mural, memorializing a fallen gang member.

"Now, I know it's hard to believe, but this intersection here used to be a bloodbath. We got ealled here all the time," said Cahill. "But the difference since the gang injunction, of course, is night and day."

Last October San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera obtained a temporary restraining order against the Oakdale mob, prohibiting nearly two dozen confirmed gang members

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Two Cops on Patrol Continued from Page 20

from congregating within this fourblock zone. It was also the day the birds came out to sing.

"We kept warning the gang members leading up to the first day of the gang injunction, you guys better watch out, the birds are gonna start chirpin', the skies are gonna clear, and the kids are gonna start singin'," whistles Leudtke.

"And they did," Cahill confirms.
"No, seriously. The birds were really chirping."

Leudtke and Cahill cannot say enough positive things about the gang injunction, which they'll tell you – with cautious optimism – could be the missing link to getting these neighborhoods back on the right track. It's been such a success that Oakdale parents, against all taboo, have come up to the officers to proffer words of appreciation.

Some critics of the injunction worry that it will strip gang members of their civil liberties, and that rehabilitated gang members may never be removed from the list. But the parents of the youngest generation don't seem to be making much of a fuss over legal rights.

"I can let my kids go out and play now," one mother whispered to the officers with restrained joy. The funds that Herrera obtained in tandem with the gang injunction have allowed families to rc-paint their houses and fix-up their yards. The difference is more than a little noticeable: it feels like you have stepped into another world, not so unlike Potrero Hill's north slope.

The officers drive toward their last destination: the Potrero Hill Housing Complex. They crane their necks to catch a look at a freshly painted graffiti scrawling; the word 'Fallujah' has dried on the roadblock, caught mid-drip in blood red paint.

"This Fallujah stuff is new," said Leudtke. "The kids think they are terrorists. I was out in Iraq, and believe me these kids have a lot more than a number of those kids. Bayview has consistent electricity and access to food. Those kids in Iraq don't."

He pauses. "But I'll honestly say, being a cop in Bayview is more dangerous than being in Iraq. And I was there when Iraqis were mortaring our tanks every single day."

Leudkte and Cahill suddenly speed-up, their police microphone rattling off a code that indicates another cop is requesting back-up. "It's only Code B, so the situation should be under control. But it's always nice to lend support," said Leudtke.



Photo by Rebecca Wilkowski

A Tale of Two Commutes Continued from Front Page

flat the crowds were back, including lots of commuters to the peninsula," said Steven Moss, a Kansas Street resident and property owner.

The Hill is legendary for trying to protect its unique architectural heritage from the encroachment of live-work lofts and luxury apartments. Partially successful efforts by the Potrero Hill League of Active Neighbors in the 1970s and the Potrero Boosters in recent years has helped the community retain its quaint charm, but not without its costs: rentals are slim-picking and only 12 percent of Bay Area households can afford a median-priced home in the neighborhood.

SoMa has picked-up the development slack that Potrero has so far fended-off. Dozens of new condominium buildings rise up to 60 stories, complete with pools, fitness centers, and 24-hour doormen. The San Francisco Planning Department's 2003 Downtown Neighborhood Initiative calls for 40,000 new housing units to be built in the downtown region, including SoMa, drawing in hungry urban developers like Millennium Partners, AGI Capital Group, and Century Properties.

Within walking distance of two Caltrain stations, both neighborhoods have become the ideal commuter launching pad for well-paid techies. Mike Lin, an IT designer for the fast-growing LinkedIn professional networking service headquartered in Mountain View, lives on Wisconsin and 22th streets. Every weekday, Lin traverses his steep hill to get to the 22nd and Pennsylvania station.

"The walk isn't really that bad," he said, entertaining his two-year-old son, Mateo, with Cheerios. According to Lin, the baby bullet Caltrain allows him to get to work in under an hour on a fairly consistent basis. "The fact it is more environmentally efficient than driving a car is an added bonus," he added.

Lin has lived in Potrero Hill for nine years, investing prodigious amounts of time in neighborhood affairs and local causes, most recently the Potrero Residents Education Fund (see related story this issue). He also created and maintains www. potrerohillsf.com, where he shares his views on all things Potrero. Before buying his current home five years ago he lived on Pennsylvania Avenue and biked to work at Sapient, an internet

consulting firm. In 2002 he landed a job at Yahoo in Sunnyvale, quickly realized Caltrain's convenience, and settled in with his family and two kids on the top of the Hill.

Lin tries to shop locally as much as possible, and keeps up-to-date on pressing neighborhood concerns. Although he misses the now-defunct 4 Star Video, he's grateful to have easy access to independently-owned Thinker's Café, Goathill Pizza, and Eliza's. In contrast to SoMa, which is littered with chains like Safeway and Starbucks, Potrero Hill businesses – including Farley's Café, Bell and Trunk, and Petite Patisserie – are frequently owned and operated by neighborhood residents.

The SoMa metropolis is in some ways a bedroom community, catering to a particular demographic: single, well-paid individuals in their 20-mid thirties who work in the Financial District or Silicon Valley. Potrero Hill is starting to attract this same demographic, with a steady steam of young techies leaving downtown for the Hill's small-town perks.

"I heard Potrero Hill nightlife is starting to pick up, especially around the Bottom of the Hill area," said Danny Davis, a 24-year-old Apple employee who, along with two friends that work in the Peninsula, recently moved walking distance from the 4th and King streets Caltrain station. "I figured, why not move to Potrero where it's peaceful, be blocks from the Caltrain, yet also get the advantage of being close to all the bars in the Mission."

Medical consultant Ted Katai found himself torn between the prospective rentals in Potrero and SoMa, but in the end decided to move to Bayside Village in SoMa last year. Although he has no regrets, he admits after he moved to Bayside Village, near Pier 36, he found himself spending more time in the Mission and the Haight than his own neighborhood. "I know a few people in my apartment complex and that's about it," he said.

Tom Kudla, on the other hand, finds everything he needs just steps from the Avalon, his condominium located at 4th and King streets. This 35-year-old techie left Twin Peaks for SoMa's eastern shores six years ago when he landed a job in Silicon Valley, and loves being close to AT&T ballpark and MoMo's, the trendy 2nd

Continued on Page 22



REVIEW

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Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro at Southern Heights

Much more info at planpotrerohillsf.org

the PLAN POTRERO HILL series is organized by the Thick House with the Potrero Boosters, Potrero Hill Association of Merchants and Businesses. Dogpatch Neighborhood Association, Neighborhood Coalition to Save Potrero Hill and the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House



Commuters waiting for Caltrains

Photo by Rebecca Wilkowski

Continued from Page 21

Street bistro-bar. "Nightlife has been the attraction for sure."

Unlike Kudla, 32-year-old attorney Rosaclaire Baisinger, who has lived at the Beacon located at 4th and King streets for two years, knows she eventually wants to move to a less urban neighborhood. "There are things about a house you miss." she said, though in nearly the same breath added, "the Caltrain is super convenient for going to San Jose." When asked if she's participated in any SoMa neighborhood planning events, she tosses back her hair and laughs, as if the question was about whether she visited Mars.

Dan Feldhusen, an Oracle consultant who also lives at the Beacon, finds the question equal parts amusing and outlandish. "I don't. even think they have neighborhood planning events here," he said with a bemused shrug.

Baisinger and Feldhusen are mistaken in their perception that SoMa is bereft of community planning efforts. The neighborhood hosts the Natoma/SoMa Neighborhood Association, is subject to the East SoMa community planning process, and is a topic of frequent discussions

at City Planning Commission and Board of Supervisor meetings. And almost three years ago the Western SoMa Citizens Planning Task Force was established by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. The 22member Task Force meets upward of five times a month, debating how to make the area bounded by Mission and Bryant, 13th and Fourth, and Harrison and Townsend streets more attractive to residents. Last month the Task Force gathered at City Hall to discuss transportation issues, focusing on the San Francisco Bicycle Plan, with a number of Task Force members advocating the addition of Bryant, Folsom, and Harrison streets as corridors for bike lanes and racks

The addition of bike lanes to main SoMa avenues could make living near Caltrain even more enticing for peninsula commuters, who could bicycle to the 4th and King street station from condominiums located in the Embarcadero and the Marina. For renters, the choice to live in SoMa or Potrero Hill may become less of a large leap, and more of fine line.



A bucket of tar spilled by construction workers on Thurgood Marshall High School's roof started a three-alarm fire last month. Though the fire burned for a half-hour damage to the school was minimal.

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UCSF will donate \$5 per car to the GreenTrust each time a fan who attends a San Francisco Giants game parks at the UCSF Mission Bay Third Street Garage. The GreenTrust, a community-based nonprofit, works to realize a greener Central Waterfront and improve the community's social and ecological health.

UCSF will also award \$50,000 to the Friends of Esprit Park, which was founded by Dogpatch neighbors to encourage the Esprit Corporation to donate the park to the City and County of San Francisco. They continue to raise funds and organize volunteers to help maintain and improve the park.

With its strong San Francisco presence, UCSF has a long history of maintaining open space in San Francisco. The 61-acre Mount Sutro Open Space Reserve on UCSF's Parnassus campus is an ecological oasis in the heart of San Francisco's urban environment. The 3.2-acre Koret Quad at UCSF's Mission Bay campus serves as an informal landscaped gathering place for the public as well as the campus community.

UCSF is proud to be part of the Mission Bay community, both as a responsible property owner and a concerned neighbor. We are pleased to contribute to two distinguished organizations that are committed to improving and preserving neighborhood parks and open space in San Francisco.







If you want to be on UCSF's Mission Bay mailing list, please email us at community@cgr.ucsf.edu or call UCSF Community Relations at 415/476-3206.

Clackwise from top: Neighbon working together to beautify Nermont Street (1950): om/io ermont street (1962); group otrero Hill residents plantin distingues seeds at la na around for a free ng ground for a tree pla voject on Arkanese Stre 1956). Photos courtesy o San Francisco History Ce ian Francisco Public Libr



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